

wheels, of which the weight of the vehicle and load combined exceeds forty thousand (40,000) pounds, shall be operated on any highway of this State. Except in the case of motor vehicles now owned and heretofore registered in this State, no certificate shall be granted for the registration of any motor vehicle equipped with solid tires and equipped with four wheels, having a rated carrying capacity of over five tons, nor of any such motor vehicle, equipped with six wheels, having a rated carrying capacity of over ten tons, and except as aforesaid, no such motor vehicle, equipped with four wheels, having a greater rated carrying capacity than five tons, and no such motor vehicle, equipped with six wheels, having a greater rated carrying capacity than ten tons shall be operated over any public highway of this State, these provisions being absolutely necessary in the opinion of the General Assembly for the proper protection and continued maintenance of the public highways of this State.

(2A) (Weights of Vehicles and Loads.) (a) No motor vehicle or physically connected combination of motor vehicles, mounted on pneumatic tires, shall have an axle load in excess of six hundred (600) pounds per inch of the aggregate width of its tires (measured at the point of greatest width of each tire) or more than twenty-two thousand four hundred (22,400) pounds in any event; provided, however, that with respect to any vehicle containing coupled axles spaced less than fifty (50) inches apart measured horizontally between their center lines, the load for each of such coupled axles shall not exceed eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds, but no such vehicle equipped with more than two such coupled axles shall be operated over any public highway of this State without the special permission of the State Roads Commission.

(b) No motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles mounted on pneumatic tires, shall have a gross weight in pounds including load, in excess of that derived from the formula 750 times (L plus 40) in which L shall be the distance in feet measured horizontally between the center lines of the first and last axles of the vehicle or combination. No vehicle or physically connected combination of motor vehicles shall exceed fifty-five feet in overall length. No physically connected combination of motor vehicles other than a tractor semi-trailer combination shall have an axle load in excess of eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds.

(c) Trailers equipped with metal tires bearing a gross load in excess of six thousand (6,000) pounds shall not be allowed on State highways.